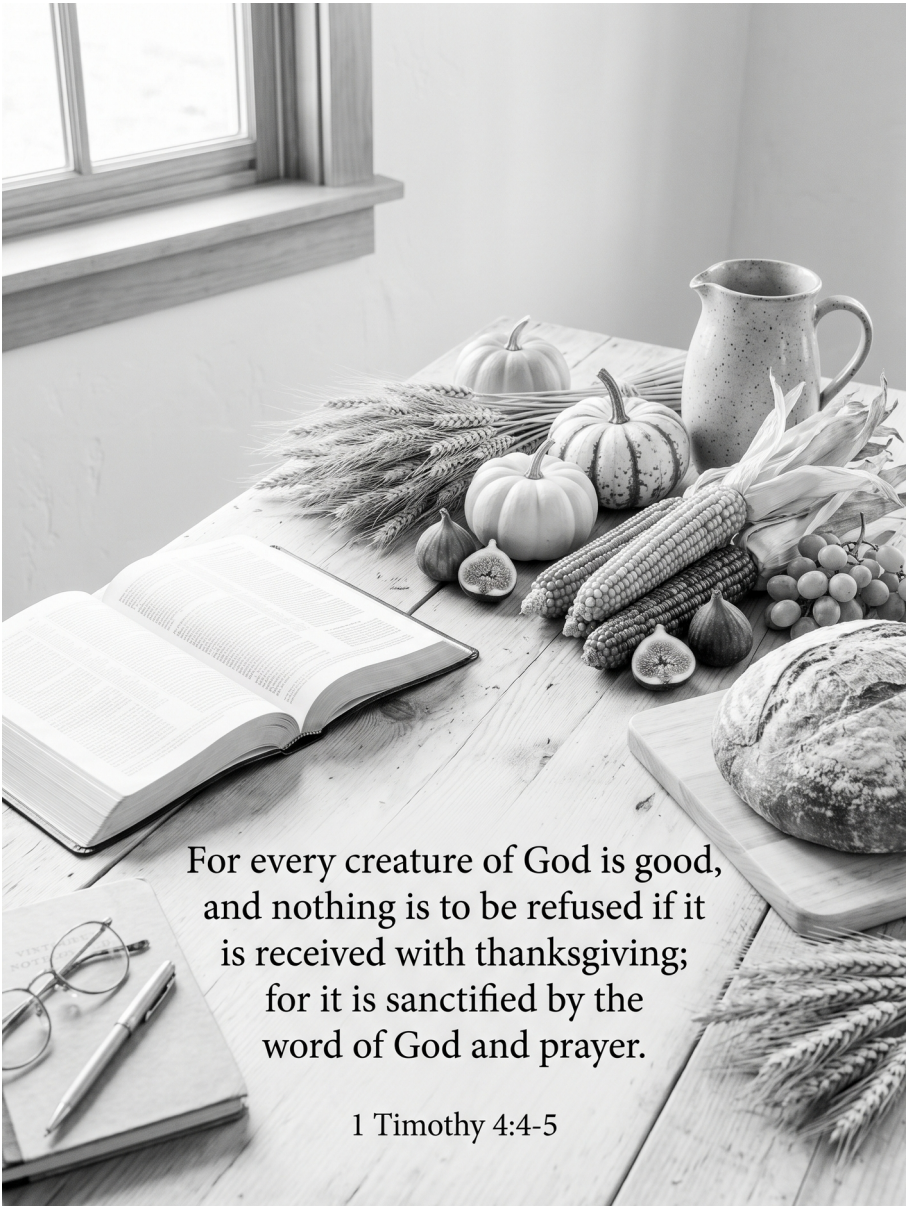


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As We Gather

It's easy to let Thanksgiving shrink down to a crowded kitchen, a good meal, and a quick list of blessings before the football game starts. And those earthly gifts really are good—every plate on the table comes straight from our Father's hand. Yet as we gather in God's house today, His Word invites us to lift our eyes even higher. What if the turkey, the roof over our heads, and the people we love are only the beginning? Before we head to the dinner table, let's pause to hear from the living God who is our Savior. Today we have so much more to be thankful for than anything this world can put on a plate.

✢ Preparation for Worship ✢

Hymn 793 – Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Psalm 100:4; 107:1

P Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.
C **Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.**
P Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
C **For His mercy endures forever.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, we gather today surrounded by the gifts of our gracious Creator, yet our hearts are often slow to recognize the Giver behind the gift. We take daily blessings for granted, grumble when circumstances test us, and look for security in things that cannot save. Let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins, trusting in His mercy and forgiveness.

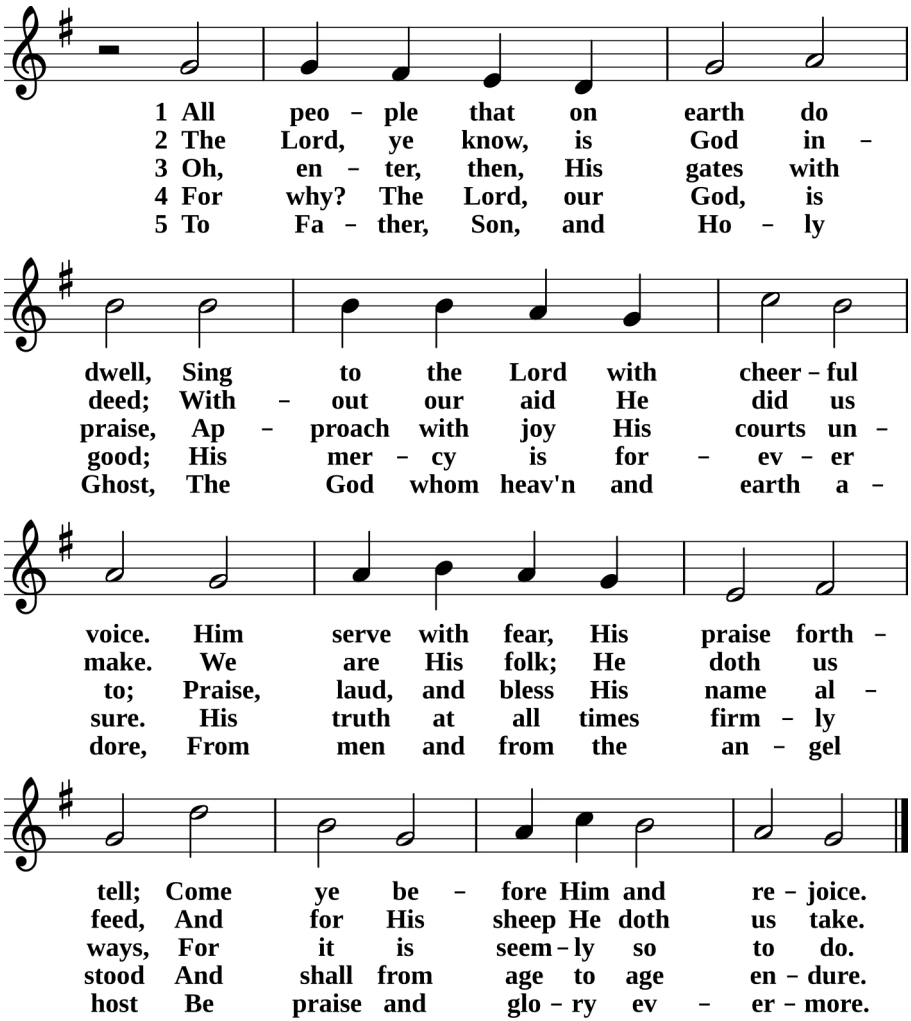
C **Gracious Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have often received Your goodness with ungrateful hearts, trusted in earthly things rather than in You, and forgotten Your enduring promises. Forgive us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and renew us by Your Spirit, that we may walk in thankful obedience before You. Amen.**

℗ Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He receives you with grace and sets you free to live in the light of His love. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

℃ **Amen.**

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Hymn of Praise 14



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray…
… who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

1 "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to
observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of
which the LORD swore to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember that the
LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to
humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you
would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you
to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your
fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread
alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the
LORD. 4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell
these forty years. 5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his
son, so the LORD your God chastens you. 6 "Therefore you shall keep the
commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear
Him. 7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of
brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;
8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land
of olive oil and honey; 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity,
in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of
whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are full, then
you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given
you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 67

P God be merciful to us and bless us,
C **And cause His face to shine upon us,**
P That Your way may be known on earth,
C **Your salvation among all nations.**
P Let the peoples praise You, O God;
C **Let all the peoples praise You.**
P Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
C **For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth.**
P Let the peoples praise You,
C **O God; Let all the peoples praise You.**
P Then the earth shall yield her increase;
C **God, our own God, shall bless us.**
P God shall bless us,
C **And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.**

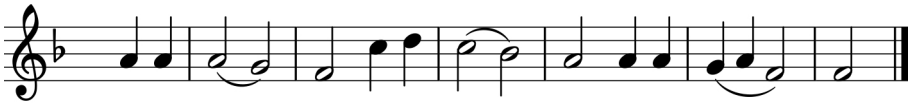
Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the
midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there
met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up
their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” 14 So when He saw
them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was
that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that
he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell
down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17
So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are
the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God
except this foreigner?” 19 And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your
faith has made you well.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Explanation to the First Article

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

443 – O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea

Sermon Text

1 Timothy 4:4-10

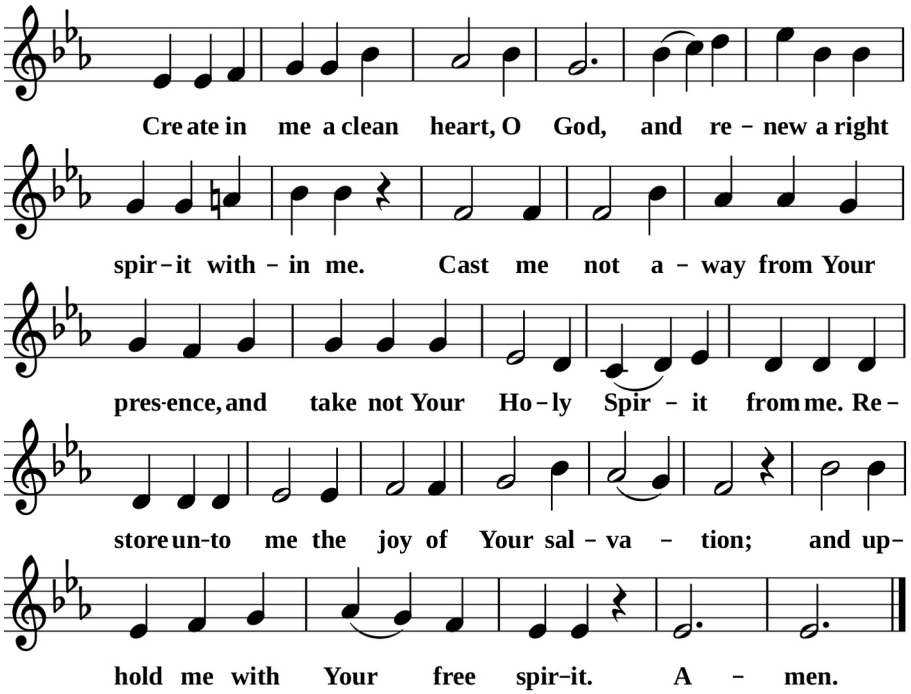
4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is
received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and
prayer. 6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good
minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good
doctrine which you have carefully followed. 7 But reject profane and old
wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise
profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of
the life that now is and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying
and worthy of all acceptance. 10 For to this end we both labor and suffer
reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men,
especially of those who believe.



Sermon

So Much More to Be Thankful For

Offertory



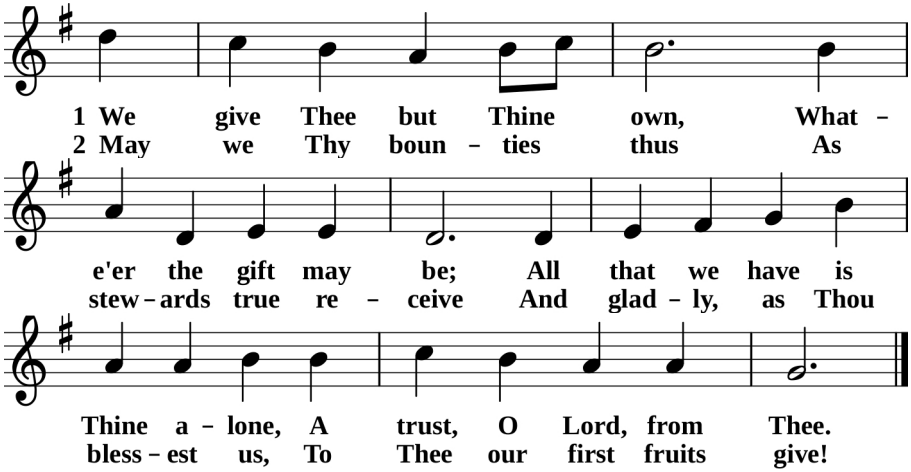
Hymn

243 – Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

36 – Now Thank We All Our God

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar		
November 26	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Day Worship Service
November 28	9:00 am	Christmas Decorating
November 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 2	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck
	12:30 pm	Board of Trustees/Church Council

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 7** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Midweek Advent Worship: "Fear Not! The Comfort of the Incarnation: Amid the rush, noise, and anxieties of December, God invites you to step aside into the quiet refuge of His Word. Throughout the Scriptures, whenever the Lord breaks into our fallen world with the promise of salvation, His messengers speak the same comforting words: "Fear not!"

Join us this Advent for our three-week midweek worship series, "Fear Not! The Comfort of the Incarnation." Together, we will gather around Scripture, prayer, and song to hear how the Savior born in Bethlehem casts out our deepest fears:

- **Wednesday, December 2 — Fear Not Your Past**
  Finding complete forgiveness in the Lord who calls us by name and redeems us (Isaiah 43:1–7).
- **Wednesday, December 9 — Fear Not the Impossible**
  Trusting the Almighty God whose saving power is made perfect in weakness (Luke 1:26–37).

  Wednesday, December 16 — Fear Not the Future
  Resting in the unshakable promise of Emmanuel—"God with us" (Romans 8:31–39).

All services will be held at 2:00 PM and will also be streamed live online for those who cannot attend in person. Take time to be refreshed by the Gospel as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Christ's birth!

Looking Forward to Sunday: We like knowing what's coming. We check the weather forecast, make plans, and mark important dates on our calendars. But there's one date we can't know: the day Jesus will return. In Mark 13:24–37, Jesus tells us that His coming will be sudden and unmistakable, and He urges us to watch and be ready. But how can we be ready for something when we don't know when it will happen? As we begin the season of Advent, we'll discover that our confidence doesn't come from knowing when Jesus will return, but from knowing who is coming—and what He has already done for us.

🎁 **Staff Christmas Gifts**: We are collecting money for our pastor and teachers for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please provide money to Ed Morris or John Kuehne by December 6.

Kinship Sponsors Needed: After the CLC declared fellowship with the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in 2020, the CLC Board of Missions has been working together with the BLCM to establish a local seminary for pastoral training. There is currently one BLCM pastor serving 1,715 souls across 19 congregations and 14 preaching stations in a country that is 95% Muslim. However, this January, 14 men will begin their pastoral training as the inaugural seminary class of the BLCM. Sponsors are needed to help these men receive their training so that they may join in the abundant work in Bangladesh. The cost of a sponsorship will be $60 per month. To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email Dan Roehl. (Cell: 507-381-2042; Email: danroehl@hotmail.com)



Giving Thanks in Real life

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NKJV) — *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Every November, store ads paint the same glossy picture of Thanksgiving: a spotless dining room, a golden turkey, and not a single unpaid bill on the counter. Then there is real life. Maybe you are staring at an empty chair at the table, waiting on test results, or stretching a paycheck that already feels too thin. When Paul urges Christians to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in everything, our sinful hearts push back. Left to ourselves, gratitude lasts only until life goes sideways.

Look closely, though, at what Paul wrote to a congregation in Thessalonica that knew plenty about grief and trouble. He did not tell believers to give thanks for every painful thing, as if a funeral or chronic illness were good things we must pretend to enjoy. He said to give thanks in every circumstance—and he anchored that call in God's saving will for you in Christ Jesus. Your reason for gratitude does not rise and fall with your bank account or the mood around your dinner table. It rests solidly on what Jesus finished at Calvary and the empty tomb.

While we were dead in sin, Christ lived the truly thankful, obedient life we never could, carried all our complaining and unbelief to the cross, and paid for every sin with His blood. Because He walked out of the grave alive, your sins are forgiven and an eternal home has your name on it. Earthly circumstances shift like passing storms, yet through His Word and Supper, your Savior still meets you with steady mercy. Whether your table feels full or painfully quiet this week, you belong to Jesus—and that is reason enough to give thanks.

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